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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/596,694	06/20/2007	Angelo D'Arrigo	071308.0720	9542
31625 7590 02/18/2009 BAKER BOTTS L.L.P. PATENT DEPARTMENT 98 SAN JACINTO BLVD., SUITE 1500 AUSTIN, TX 78701-4039				
EXAMINER				
GORDON, BRYAN P				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2834				
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02/18/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/596,694

Applicant(s)

D'ARRIGO, ANGELO

Examiner

BRYAN P. GORDON

Art Unit

2834

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 February 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-9 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 10-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CDC)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: In paragraph 0033 of the specification the applicant refers to 31 as the tube-shaped body while throughout the rest of the application the applicants refers to 31 as the piezo actuator. The examiner believes the applicant meant to refer to 38 as the tube-shaped body. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 4, 10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shen (US PN 6,499,471).

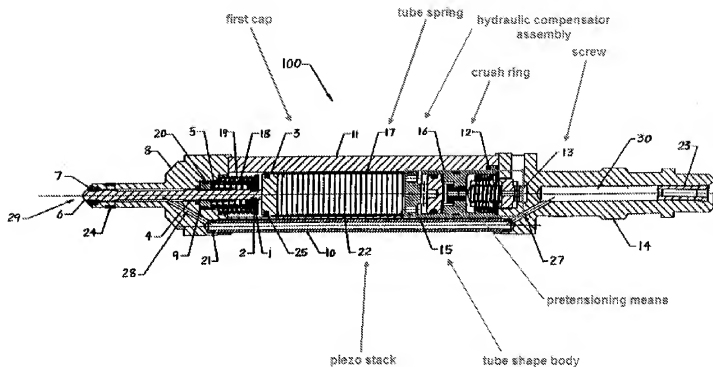


Figure A

4. Considering claims 1 and 10, Shen (Figure A) teaches a piezoelectric actuator unit comprising: a tube spring (17); a piezoelectric actuator (22), that is inserted into the tube spring, a first cap (3), that is connected to the tube spring at a first free end of the tube spring and which is adjoined by the piezoelectric actuator, a tube-shaped body (15) that is connected to the tube spring by joining and is arranged in the area of a second free end of the tube spring and a means for pretensioning that is supported by the tube-shaped body and pretensions the piezoelectric actuator.

5. Considering claims 4 and 13, Shen (Figure A) teaches a thread in the tube-shaped body and wherein the pretensioning means is a screw (13) that is screwed into the thread.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

8. Claims 2-3, 5-7, 11-12 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shen (US PN 6,499,471) and in view of Mattes (US PN 6,326,717).

9. Considering claims 2 and 11, Shen teaches the claimed invention as described above except for the body that comprises a disc-shaped part.

In the same field of endeavor, Mattes teaches a body that comprises a disc-shaped part (20) for the benefit of producing a cheaper way to manufacture the actuator.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include body that comprises a disc-shaped part with Voigt's device for the benefit described above.

10. Considering claims 3 and 12, Mattes teaches the body being a bolt-shaped body (abstract).

11. Considering claims 5 and 14, Mattes teaches the bolt-shaped body is spherically shaped on its shaft side (abstract).

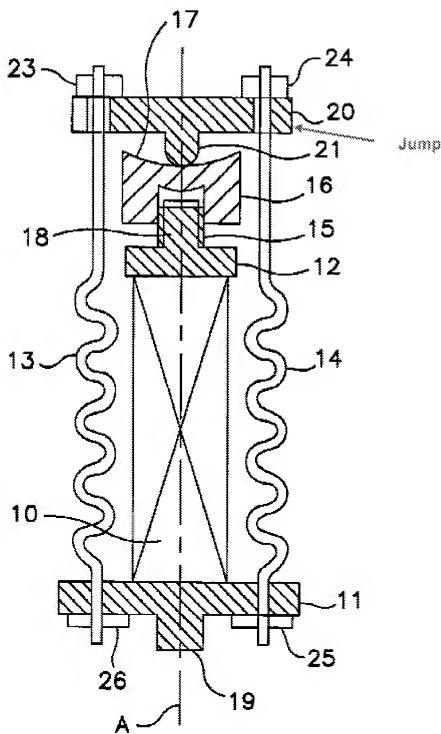


Figure B

12. Considering claims 6 and 15, Mattes (Figure 1) teaches the tube-shape body has a jump in its diameter on its outer circumference.

13. Considering claims 7 and 16, the method of forming the tube-shaped body (by welding) is not germane to the issue of patentability of the device itself. Therefore, this limitation has not been given patentable weight.

Response to Arguments

14. Applicant's arguments, see pages 5-8, filed 04 February 2009, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1 under Voigt (WO 00/08353) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Shen (US PN 6,499,471) and in view of Mattes (US PN 6,326,717).

Conclusion

15. The examiner has withdrawn the final rejection mailed out 15 December 2008.

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRYAN P. GORDON whose telephone number is (571)272-5394. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:00-5:30, Friday 7:30-4:00.

17. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Quyen Leung can be reached on 571-272-8188. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

18. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Quyen P Leung/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2834

/B. P. G./
Examiner, Art Unit 2834